

# Highlights

FEBRUARY 2007

of the Sayville School District

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 22.7  
<http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us>

## NEWSWORTHY Caring Hands & Hearts For Our Soldiers Overseas At the Middle School

The Sayville Middle School community has kicked off a **Caring Hands & Hearts** campaign for our soldiers overseas. Students are writing letters and collecting nonperishable items from the **Soldiers' Wish List** (below).

Community members who may be interested in donating to this worthy cause can make dropoffs at the Welcome Desk in the Middle School foyer:

### Soldiers' Wish List

- |                              |  |  |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| *Baby wipes                  | *Shampoo   | *Bowl of noodle soups  |
| *Hand sanitizer              | *Hair Conditioner  | *Kool Aid or similar drink mix                               |
| *Body lotion                 | *AA and AAA batteries  | *Candy (No chocolate, please. It melts in the extreme heat.) |
| *Razors                      | *Beanie Babies or small stuffed toys (which soldiers give to Iraqi children to help foster good relations) | *Microwave popcorn   |
| *Shaving cream               |  | *DVD's   |
| *Deodorant                   |  | *Books   |
| *Lip balm (SPF 15 or higher) |  | *Magazines   |
| *Sunscreen                   |  | *Stationery supplies (pen, paper, envelopes)                 |
| *Bath/body wash              |  | *Hand warmers  |
| *Toothbrush                  |  | *Feet warmers  |
| *Toothpaste                  |  | *Flashlights   |
| *Dental floss                | *Bug repellent (for ticks and sand fleas)  |  |
| *Chewing gum                 | *Washcloths  |  |
| *Feminine hygiene products   | *Energy bars   |  |
| *Body/foot powder            | *Energy drinks   |  |
|                              | *Tuna packets  |  |
|                              | *Chips (individual servings)   |  |

### Mark Your Calendars !!!

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Kristen's Walk to the Water May 19th

This year's Sayville High School Commencement 2007 also marks the 15<sup>th</sup> and last year for **Kristen's Softball Scholarships**. (One scholarship recipient is announced at the Awards Night, the other is announced during Commencement.) The Kessler family also noted the coincidence that this year, their son Craig (Kristen's brother) graduates Sayville High School.

## A CALL TO ACT DARFUR AWARENESS WEEK

### How many of us feel a call to act against injustice?

Perhaps that's the question High School History Club members were asking of fellow students as they launched **Darfur Awareness Week**. Alerting America's youth to the genocide and atrocities inflicted upon the ethnic populations in the Darfur region of Africa since 2003, the History Club worked in conjunction with the Social Studies Department to provide information.

History Club members wore their "Save Darfur" T-shirts, prepared with iron-on transfers by Junior Tara Weber. Some History Club volunteers gave PowerPoint presentations in all the Social Studies classes. Others used their lunch periods, sitting behind tables outside the cafeteria, to collect **Dollars for Darfur** or ask for signatures on postcards and petitions to politicians, which demanded further action be taken for ending the genocide in Darfur. Posters and signs decorated the hallways, while a documentary entitled "*Darfur: a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Genocide*" was offered for extra credit.

It was a schoolwide appeal for compassion that showed students that they can "act" from the comfort of their own high school.

A scholar of the Holocaust, Congressman Steve



Israel has been quoted as asking "What would I have done, as an elected official, to stop what happened?" Last year, forty Sayville students were among the 500 high school students Islandwide who were invited to

Darfur Awareness Day, sponsored by

Congressman Israel in collaboration with the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity, and Human Understanding. It was a "day of education, awareness, and activism in response to the ongoing genocide in Sudan," that

impressed the Sayville students who attended, especially Juniors Brittany Rende and Tara Weber. They were among the History Club members who led the charge in the Sayville High School campaign for awareness.

Mrs. Sue Hart and Mr. Michael Pace, Social Studies teachers and History Club advisors, were enthused about the students' energy and commitment and the response of the High School community to the week of activities. They were also pleased to announce that a visit from Congressman Steve Israel would follow up their week.

Darfur

Awareness Week was an eye opener for many students. For others, it was a call to take action against the world's most egregious human rights violations.



Tara and Brittany Mayrose



Alex Korpi and Joey Geraci



Alex Laskowski



Thomas Mittiga and Karl Hart



Teachers/History Club Advisors Michael Pace and Sue Hart with students Brian Anziano and Megan Cook

# Highlights of the Sayville School District



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN VERDONE, PRESIDENT  
 NORMAN DEVENAU, VICE PRESIDENT  
 ALLISON J. CRUZ  
 MAUREEN DOLAN  
 KEITH KOLAR  
 RAYMOND J. NELSON  
 DEBORAH VAN ESSENDELFT

## BOARD NOTES

### At the February 8<sup>th</sup> BOE Meeting

Board Citations were awarded to retiring faculty and elementary students (see photos right).

**Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools, reported on the following:**

- 2007-2008 Preliminary School Budget: Dr. Jones, Mr. Belmonte • Budget Development Process (General Support)
  - Upcoming Budget Discussions: Workshop Mtg. March 1, 7pm; Regular Mtg. March 8, 8pm
- Facilities Committee Update:
- 2007-2008 Calendar
- Statistical Report: Parent-Teacher Conferences: Dr. Sullivan Keck
- Report from Suffolk County Homeowners Tax Reform Commission

## BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION:

- Board Reports

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 1** Board of Education Workshop –BUDGET DISCUSSIONS  
Administration Building - 7 pm
- March 7** Superintendent's Roundtable: Facilities Discussion
- March 8** Regular Board of Education Mtg. –BUDGET DISCUSSIONS  
Administration Building - 8 pm
- March 21-24** Musical **42nd Street @ HS**

## Pesticide Notification

New York State Education Law Section 409-H requires all public and nonpublic schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the periodic and potential use of pesticides throughout the school year.

New York State requires school districts to issue a notification 48 hours prior to each pesticide application during the course of the year to faculty, staff, and parents who request it. If you would like to receive this notification, please send a written request with your name, address, and phone number to the Office of the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, 99 Greeley Avenue, Sayville, New York 11782. Also see the District Calendar.

## BOE Citations

### AWARDED TO RETIRING FACULTY AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

(Below) Elementary student citations presented by Principals Rose Castello and John Stimmel with BOE members President John Verdone, Vice President Norm deVenau, and Deborah Van Essendelft. (Right) Staff recognition was presented by Mrs. Van Essendelft to retiring faculty (l-r):

- Linda O'Leary (38.5 years)
- Michael Taber (33 years), and
- Josephine Myszka (27 years)



## SUNRISE DRIVE Awards presented by Principal Rose Castello



### Sunrise Drive Reflections Contest Award Winners

<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	<b>LITERATURE</b>
Caroline Ross	Timothy Peyton
Jaelyn Roppelt	Shreeya Panigrahi
Sydney Teplitz	<b>MUSIC</b>
<b>VISUAL ARTS</b>	Sydney Teplitz
Jaelyn Roppelt	
Emily Faughnan	
Tyler McKenna	

### Contest Honorable Mentions

<b>LITERATURE</b>	<b>VISUAL ARTS</b>
Emily Faughnan	Kristen Eichele
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	
Sydney Teplitz	



(left) **Town of Islip Basketball Sharpshooter Contest Winners**  
 Kevin • Grade 5  
 Erin and Everett • Grade 4



(right) Christopher performed with the **Long Island String Festival Orchestra**. His participation has marked him as one of the finest string students on Long Island.

## CHERRY AVENUE Awards presented by Principal John Stimmel



(left) **Town of Islip Basketball Sharpshooter Contest Winners**  
 Sarah and Kyle • Grade 4  
 Joseph and Kristen • Grade 5

(right) Emily raised over \$1,400 for the **2007 Romp to Stomp Out Breast Cancer Snowshoe Series** in Vermont

(right) **Winners of the Sayville Chamber of Commerce Thanksgiving Essay Contest**  
 Gillian, James and Kaitlyn



(left) **Cherry Avenue Reflections Contest Winner**  
**VISUAL ARTS**  
 Brianna

# Highlights of the Sayville School District

## BOE CITATIONS

### CONTINUED CHERRY AVENUE

(right) Kyra initiated her own Coat Collection which donated 175 coats to outreach programs in Wyandanch and Bay Shore



(middle photo) Recipient of the Swimming High Point Award Jack

(left) Ribbon Winner for the Parkview Riding Competition Marielle

## CORRECTIONS TO LAST MONTH'S

### Highlights

- Joseph Nasta received Coach of the Year Honors in League V for JV Girls Soccer
- Seventh-grade Middle School Student Dana Schulz was also inducted into the Junior National Honor Society.

# Human Frailty Under Glass

## in SHS's *The Glass Menagerie*

In the intimate setting of the SHS Backstage Theatre, select drama students from four casts portrayed the fragile characters in Tennessee Williams' award-winning play *The Glass Menagerie*. Pitting illusion against reality, Tennessee Williams wrote this loosely biographical play about a dysfunctional family struggling with their perceived isolation from society.

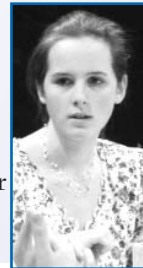
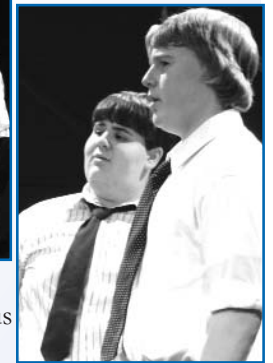
In each production, the remarkable Sayville Players gave powerful performances that pulled audiences into the charged conflicts between major characters Tom Wingfield (*Edward McLaughlin* and *Brian Ellison*) and his mother Amanda (*Sarah Bartlett*, *Christine Carniaux*, *Kristin Troccoli*, and *Christina Hess*), and established the deepening desolation of Tom's sister, Laura (*Jenna Hanshe*, *Marissa Green*, *Lara Schmitt*, *Emily Hepding*). Even the appearance of gentleman caller James O'Connor (*Joseph Hailey* and *Kieran Siao*) could not help Laura overcome her unique frailty. True to form, the Sayville Players expertly delivered *The Glass Menagerie* with passionate intensity that left audiences as Williams intended—emotionally drained.

For 28 years, Director Stephen Hailey has been offering students the opportunity to experiment with a variety of



dramatic genres in his Theatre Laboratory. "In the course of our various theatrical experiments," he stated in the play program, "I have seen high school students approach professional levels of performance as we explored in depth virtually every aspect of dramatic enterprise."

Congratulations again this year to Mr. Hailey and the Sayville Players for another "professional" production.



PRESENTED BY THE  
**HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC & DRAMA DEPARTMENTS**

High School Auditorium

**MARCH 21-24**

### ADMISSION

- Wednesday / Thursday \$6-All Admissions
- Friday & Saturday \$8-students; \$10-adults (over 18)
- FREE-Senior Citizens with District Gold Card

**All seats reserved. For additional information, call 244-6600.**

# Highlights of the Sayville School District

**PRINCIPAL**  
John E. Stimmel  
**TEACHERS**  
Andria Flynn  
Karen Donnelly  
Karen Hooks  
Alyce Chazan  
Valarie Hester  
**PARENTS**  
Ellen Haber  
Tracey Maddy  
Kathy Pelletier  
Kim Sparacio  
Michelle Wilbert

## Cherry Site-Based Team Report

Cherry's SBT has dedicated its school year to creating a **Student Publishing Center**. This center will establish a supportive resource for the writing process of our students. They will now have their best works laminated, then covered and bound into a quality book that can be shared with both classmates and family, and preserved as a school memento. SBT is working with District and building staff to address challenges of space and materials. The students, staff, and families of Cherry Avenue are looking forward to the completion of this project.

## Lincoln Site-Based Team Report

The SBT has launched new initiatives:

- **Internet Safety Education:** With local news in mind, SBT recognized this need and began with a data collection of students' internet and computer use. In addition to sharing this information through a creative brochure, internet safety tips were also provided. SBT will evaluate this topic further.
- **A Parent Resource Center:** With New York State Testing in Grades 3 through 8, and the introduction of our new elementary reading program, SBT wants to better inform and support parents. The Parent Resource Center contains fliers, books and games for loan which support Sayville Schools' curriculum. In addition, several workshops were held targeting various topics.
- **Other Ongoing SBT Initiatives:** The *Lincoln Avenue Student Government*, our *"Culture Connection"* bulletin board that promotes diversity awareness, and *Career Day* with community members who share their expertise with students in an expo-style fashion.

**PRINCIPAL**  
Michele Gunther  
**TEACHERS**  
Kateri Volpe (Chair)  
Katherine Enea  
Mary Puglisi  
Christine Caltabiano  
Jennifer McCleery  
Janet Closs  
**PARENTS**  
Kristen Thayer  
Sharon O'Halloran  
Brigid Vickers  
Jacqueline Fraccalvieri  
Kathy Acierno  
Dawn Gomez

**PRINCIPAL**  
Rose Castello  
**TEACHERS**  
Joanne Hamilton  
MaryBeth Dieterle  
Claudia Carpenter  
Keri Athan  
Mary Pat Holler  
**PARENTS**  
Elizabeth Read  
Emily Geiger  
Heather Martin  
Debbie Fitzpatrick  
Angela O'Leary

## Sunrise Site-Based Team Report

Ambitious goals outlined by our SBT are:

- **Newspaper**, published three times a year, keeps our community informed about how we're making Sunrise Drive an even better educational environment for our students. Check our Website for copies.
- **A Parent Handbook** as an easy reference for parents. It outlines all the practices, procedures, and policies at Sunrise Drive. Short surveys, filled out by parents, helped make the handbook parent-friendly.

## Middle School Site-Based Team Report

**COCHAIRS**  
Dr. Walter Schartner  
Dawn Lloyd  
Joanne DiNovis  
**TEACHER MEMBERS**  
Lynn Alessi  
Annamarie Martin  
Kate Redmond-Eubanks  
Marie Amella-Pesko  
**PARENT MEMBERS**  
Samantha Rodriguez  
Tara Patin  
Patti Simon  
Terry Czachor  
**RECORDER**  
Thomas Murray

Middle School Site-Based Team  
**"Excellence is the Goal"**

Since the SBT was the vehicle for the

"Schools to Watch" application process, we celebrated the accomplishment at our first meeting, then we focused on areas for improvement.

1. *Mr. Thomas Murray has taken a leadership role in a schoolwide program to support our troops:*

**Caring Hands and Hearts:** The Sayville Middle School will be collecting supplies to send to those serving our country in the Armed Forces.

**Start Date: February 16<sup>th</sup> • End Date: March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Through February and March, the Middle School will collect supplies. Beginning February 26<sup>th</sup>, Community members can drop off items at the Welcome Desk in the Middle School entrance. This collaboration that encompasses the skills and time of many different areas of our school community will have three stages:

**STAGE 1.** Mrs. McCann and students are writing letters to corporations explaining our fundraising objective and asking for support. Students can get addresses from their Advisory Teacher. Completed letters must be in Mr. Biscari's mailbox by the deadline, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

## STAGE 2. (February 16-March 23)

Items will be collected through Advisory and other avenues, while we explore and create multiple ways to communicate with Armed Service Personnel. Some suggestions have been to write letters, postcards, CDs, poems, posters, etc.

Students will win prizes for

- the most creative collection box in their Advisory
- the most unique way to communicate: "We Care".
- the most community-service hours for this project

## STAGE 3. Pack and Ship (March 26-March 30)

2. *Grade 6 and 7 students are in an exchange program: Grade 7 students will visit Finley MS in Huntington and Grade 6 students may visit Weldon E. Howitt MS in Farmingdale. We will then host both schools.*

3. *The theme of the second parent evening on March 22 will continue with the topic of scheduling. Parents can learn about their children's program for next year.*

4. *The MS SBT has begun developing an interactive web page. We hope to have the parent-communication piece running soon. Currently, we have minutes posted and the parent library listed.*

## High School Site-Based Team Report

**ADMINISTRATION**  
Ronald Hoffer • Tamar Muscolino  
**TEACHERS**  
Kathy Bernstein  
Brian Daleo  
Kevin Recker  
Doug Shaw  
Laurie Skahill  
Marie Sinclair  
Patti Warren  
Christine Richter  
**PARENTS**  
Bob Quarte  
Kathleen Keeney  
Laura Hanshe  
Patricia Fucci  
George Munkenbeck  
Sandy Norris  
**STUDENTS**  
Emma Levy  
Kieran Siao  
Amanda Rizzo  
Nicky Perratto  
Cory Faragon  
Julie MacDonell

The 2006-2007 High School Site-Based Team GOALS are to:

1. **Identify ways to enhance student-involvement in extracurricular activities while striving for academic excellence. (i.e., Fundraising activities)**
2. **Encourage, enhance, and support our academic program to achieve academic excellence via data analysis and explanation.**
3. **Address health and safety issues.**
4. **Develop, identify, and assist students in finding innovative ways to fundraise for school events and charity.**

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• After reviewing and discussing the benefits and detriments of our Renaissance Program, SBT revitalized the program so it convenes within the

middle of the school day and garners support of local businesses within the community.

- Addressing how class rank is reported to colleges (*as actual rank or using percentiles*), SBT also assessed the impact class rank has on the elective course enrollments.
- SBT assisted in initiating the newly formed foundation called SAIL, a vibrant, legitimate educational foundation that focuses on finding supportive financing for extra student activities and initiatives throughout the district.
- SBT analyzed Regents and AP results.
- SBT discussed a seminar course for Seniors, taken prior to their graduation, which would assist them in acclimating to life after high school.

# Highlights of the Sayville School District



## FIGURE DRAWING WORKSHOP in Sayville High School

It was likened to an “in-school” field trip. Select Sayville Art students participated in an all-day workshop with visiting freelance artist, illustrator, and B.O.C.E.S. Arts-in-Education presenter Jeff Fisher without having to travel any further than Mr. Evan Hammer’s classroom.

Conducting a figure-drawing class with the assistance of his professional live model, Jeff Fisher introduced the students to experiments in visual expression and invention. “Utilizing many different types of media,” explained Art Department Chairperson Julia Lang-Shapiro, “including charcoal, colored pencil, ink, and pastels, the students produced an impressive number of works during the full-day session.” While the Art students who participated were from

different Art department classes, including AP Studio in Art, Advanced Drawing, Intro to Drawing, and Studio in Art, they all benefited significantly from the enlightening experience.



## AN ALL-DAY READING

### OF *Night*

Along the lines of James Joyce’s *Ulysses* and Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, Sayville High School English Department conducted an all-day reading of Elie Wiesel’s *Night* as a pilot program for approximately 120 tenth-grade students.

The idea germinated after Mrs. Sinishtaj had attended the NYS English Conference in Albany and learned that neighboring Bay Shore school district had conducted an all-day reading of *Night* at their high school. As Mrs. Sinishtaj discussed the concept with English Department Chairperson Edward Schmieder, she expanded on the simple reading activity and proposed a multimedia presentation that would give the words more impact. It would require enlisting interdepartmental assistance for various creative aspects of the All-Day reading assembly and ultimately become a



truly interdisciplinary event.

Soliciting twenty readers from members of the faculty and staff to recite short portions of the book was simple. However, since the response was so overwhelming, the hardest part, Mrs. Sinishtaj reported, was turning down all the faculty volunteers who wanted to participate. As English curriculum studies for Sophomore year focuses on the Holocaust, English teacher Jillian Petrone also assisted in the activity.

After the Cattle Car reading selection, all the students from the audience were called forward and crammed in a roped-off area that matched the dimension of the cattle cars. “How does it feel,” they were asked, “to be packed into such a tight space? Imagine how it would feel over prolonged periods?” Expressing their own discomfort with the temporary arrangement, the students grasped



the horror endured by the victims of the holocaust.

For musical interludes, Mr. Jeff Hoffman directed his Chorale students as they performed a song in Hebrew from “Schindler’s List” along with a featured violin part played by Dr. Jennifer Morgo. Later, student Marissa Green played a piece from Beethoven. PowerPoint presentations, created by groups of students from Grade 10-Honors English classes, followed the narration and underscored the text with historical photos, film clips, and statistics from the Holocaust.

\*\*\*\*\*

“It was a phenomenal activity,” Chairperson Edward Schmieder said, “with the desired result.” By enhancing the reading experience with live music, stage lighting for effect, the slideshow, as well as reflective-writing and sharing sessions, the Sayville students gained new perspectives from the memoir of Holocaust Survivor Elie Wiesel.

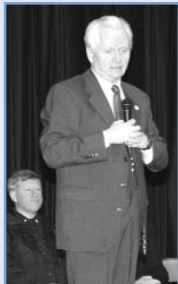


# Highlights of the Sayville School District

## Keeping D.A.R.E. in their Promises

While this year's D.A.R.E. (*Drug Abuse Resistance Education*) graduations for the Fifth-graders in Sayville's three elementary schools were separate and distinctive ceremonies, each was befitting this very important first step toward a drug-free life. Parents came to witness this milestone, along with guest dignitaries Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay, NYS Assemblywoman Ginny Fields, and Senator Caesar Trunzo, or their representatives, who offered words of praise and encouragement.

During the **CHERRY AVENUE** ceremony, Principal John Stimmel compared the educational tools with D.A.R.E. tools—both play important parts in bringing students success in their lives. He reminded the D.A.R.E. graduates that their parents, teachers, and the community all care,



because "nothing is more important than our children." Legislator Lindsay noted that this was their "first" real graduation and therefore a real accomplishment—especially if the students would continue to practice the D.A.R.E. strategies to protect their most important tools—their brains. Within the selected D.A.R.E. Essays, read by students Joe DePompeo, Julia Magnani, and Justine O'Reilly, parents heard what lessons most impressed the D.A.R.E. students. As a finale, Music Teacher Mrs. Kristi Woerner led the students in the song "Responsible," (*see insert below*) by composer Teresa Jennings, with some D.A.R.E. lyrics interjected by Mrs. Woerner for the special occasion.

### EXCERPT FROM "Responsible"

I'm responsible for what I do;  
I'm responsible for what I do.  
I'm responsible for what I do;  
I'm responsible for what I do.

Actions have consequences, don't you see?  
Choose your behavior  
and use **DARE** you see, with  
**Decency, Fairness, Honesty, Respect  
and DARE!**  
**Discipline, Justice, Courage and Respect  
and DARE!**  
**Integrity, Compassion, Morality, Respect  
and DARE!**  
**Humility, Kindness and D-A-R-E, DARE!**  
**Yeah, yeah, responsible!**  
(photo below: Cherry students sing.)



**LINCOLN'S D.A.R.E.** ceremony opened with Principal Michele Gunther linking the acronym D.A.R.E. with its standard dictionary definition. She reminded her students that they should "defy or oppose" any offers to engage in substance abuse or violence.



When Ginny Fields spoke to the students, she fondly recalled the previous year's Apprentice Skit. She had been so impressed with the Lincoln students, she had written a letter to Donald Trump about the Apprentice influence on the Lincoln D.A.R.E. graduates. Trump responded to Mrs. Fields, commending the Lincoln students for their participation in D.A.R.E.

Lincoln Avenue D.A.R.E. essayists Michael Marchan, Harrison Moses, Meghan Maloney, and Shannon Wissemann kept the attention of



# Highlights of the Sayville School District



parents with their personal viewpoints on D.A.R.E. strategies. This year's D.A.R.E. Skit was every bit as clever. Setting the scene in their own immediate future—Sixth Grade—the students expressed their dilemma in encountering “peer pressure.” With the help of superheroes Batman and Robin, along with real hero Officer Ralph, the students enacted the various successful ways to say no to peer pressure.

For the first time, **SUNRISE DRIVE** had room to spare for parents attending the D.A.R.E. graduation. In the bright new cafeteria, Fifth-grade D.A.R.E. graduates eagerly listened as Officer Ralph reiterated the topics they had been taught. NYS Legislator Ginny Fields pointed out that although D.A.R.E. classes had concluded, from this point forward, Officer Ralph wants “to see you on good terms.” After students Austin Concannon, Nicholas Rooney, Shane Sullivan, and Kenneth Weisenberger read their essays, all the Fifth-graders stood to sing “We’re All In This Together,” from High School Musical, lyrics paraphrased with D.A.R.E. sentiments.

Once the Fifth-graders were named individually for completing their D.A.R.E. requirements, Principal Rose Castello counseled parents to reaffirm the D.A.R.E. lessons by staying involved in their children’s busy lives, especially in the challenging teen years ahead.

During the ceremonies, Officer Ralph Clanton mentioned that his first Sayville D.A.R.E. graduation was in January, 1995. Thirteen graduations later, he’s still at the helm of the Suffolk County Police Department’s Drug Abuse Resistance Education program that teaches Sayville elementary students, over a twelve-week period, defensive methods for resisting drugs.

Connecting with the kids is Officer Ralph’s specialty; influencing their long-term resistance to drugs, violence, and alcohol abuse is his intention; caring about the healthy choices of his young charges and their future decision-making is his passion.

And all his fifth-grade D.A.R.E. graduates know it. That is perhaps why, for thirteen years, every Sayville D.A.R.E. graduation has



included a show of gratitude—in the students’ essays, songs, and skits—for Officer Ralph. A show of gratitude is a great start, but Officer Ralph has begun asking more of his students. This year, he had the students stand, face their parents in the audiences, and recite an oath, much like his oath to serve as a Police Officer, to stay drug, alcohol, and violence free. It’s a promise everyone wants to see kept.



# Highlights

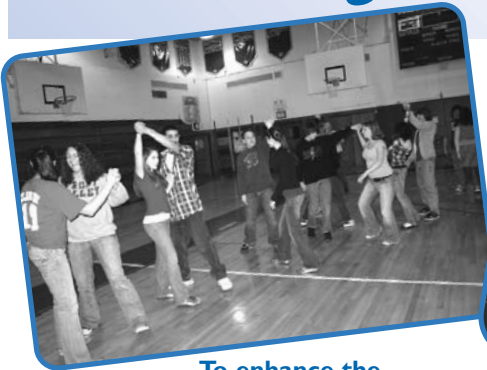
SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER  
Linda A. Mittiga, mittigal@sayville.k12.ny.us  
Past Winner of NYSPRA Awards

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SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

99 Greeley Avenue School Tax Code 566  
Sayville, New York 11782  
DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES, SUPERINTENDENT OF SAYVILLE SCHOOLS

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

## A Change of Pace: Introducing Swing!



To enhance the

dance component in the NYSAPERD's (NEW YORK STATE ATHLETIC, HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION, AND DANCE) Physical Education curriculum, *Swing* dancing was incorporated into Sayville High School classes this year. While in the past, students usually learned Square Dancing, the renewed interests in ballroom and other forms of dance



Photo courtesy of Ginnie Moore Sayville Gazette

encouraged the Physical Education Department to introduce Swing—and the students had a ball!

Teacher Steve Neugebauer, assisted by guest instructor Debbie Abbate of *Ovations Dance Studio*, showed the students the basics. After observing the form and style of the “professionals,” the students practiced until they were able to



Photo courtesy of Ginnie Moore Sayville Gazette

glide their way across the gym floor. Dance, as with other athletic endeavors, promotes physically active and healthy lifestyles. In addition, teaching students this traditional form of dancing actually gives students confidence to interact both *with* adults, *as* adults, while preparing them for future social functions.

## ADDING UP TO MORE GREATNESS



Congratulations to SHS Mathletes team members M. Otto, V. Patel, M. Santoro, B. Roecklein, S. Chaudry, J. Cromwell, I. Besso, R. Burgon, T. Caverly, A. DeRiddor, S. Dier, B. Panigrahi, J. Catapano; M. Cheng, S. Tuozzolo, and Advisor Christopher Surrisco for their accomplishments!

It was another sensational accomplishment by the Sayville High School Mathletes Team. Although, last year, the team finished in Fourth Place among the thirteen schools competing in their division, this year, led by Seniors Matt Santoro, Matt Otto, Joe Catapano, Viral Patel, and Trevor Caverly, the High School

Mathlete team accomplished something that has never been done before in Sayville history. They came in **FIRST** place!

In addition to the team's success, there was an individual honor never achieved in Sayville before.

Last year, the team's leading scorer, Trevor Caverly, tied for Eighth Place among all the students competing in Suffolk County. This year, Trevor came in **FIRST PLACE** beating ALL 500 participants who competed in Suffolk County. Trevor competed against the best and brightest students in Suffolk County and is now number one! Congratulations again to Trevor and to the entire Sayville High School Mathletes team!

## ITSBA Visits Sayville



As part of a new initiative to visit its members' districts, the **ISLIP TOWN SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION** has been rotating the locations of its meetings.

One such meeting took place in Sunrise Drive's new cafeteria. Sayville Board of Education President John Verdone, who is also the current President of ITSBA, along with Sayville BOE Vice President Norm deVenau (also current Vice President of ITSBA) welcomed ITSBA members to their home district and introduced Sayville Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones to those in attendance.

Sayville Technology Department Chairman Michael Taber gave a presentation and tour of the new Sunrise Drive Scantek and computer lab.